



SACRED SPACE



OPENING PRAYER

A Prayer for our Earth

By Pope Francis*

Reader 1:

O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Reader 2:

Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
To be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.

All respond:

We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

Amen

**Pope Francis published this prayer in his Laudato si' encyclical; and is meant for sharing with all who believe in a God who is the all-powerful Creator.*



Then God said, “Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other.” And so it happened:

God made the dome, and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it. God called the dome “the sky.” Evening came, and morning followed—the second day.

Scripture Reading

Then God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear.” And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God call the dry land “the earth,” and the basin of the water he called ‘the sea.” God saw how good it was.

CREATION FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS (CHAPTER 1, VERSUS 6 TO 12)

Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth vegetation; every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it.” And so it happened: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was.

Silence for reflection

Light up Creation

I will light a light – six candles

A: I will light a light
In the name of the Maker of light
Who lit the world with stars, sun and moon
And breathed the breath of life
Into all things

B: I will light a light
In the name of the Revealer of light
Who brought light into the darkness
And stretched out hands for us
Giving love to the whole world.

C: I will light a light
In the name of the Inspirer of light
Who lit the world from within
And fills my life with wonder
In the search for learning and wisdom.

D: I will light a light
For ourselves and each other
For our families and friends
For the work, hopes and struggles
of those who protect our environment.

E: I will light a light
For the whole world
For all things created, visible and invisible
For individuals and communities in
need in our region, especially in Kiribati.

F: I will light a light
To give thanks
For water, air and soil
For plants, trees and animals
For minerals and fossils
And the whole human family.





Concluding Prayer

Leader: We conclude with a prayer of Pope Francis

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one

“Laudato Si (Praised Be)”